Michelle McNeight

Mrs. Patterson

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Poetry Project – Imagists

1. In the early twentieth century, English and American poets began writing a new style of free verse poetry that developed into The Imagist Movement. This new side of poetry was focused on clarity and expression through the use of precise visual images (A Brief Guide). The goal of imagists was to use the language of common speech, but to employ always the exact word (A Brief Guide). Imagism was developed to avoid cloudy abstract language and poor creativity of poems during the Georgian Romanticism age. The imagists wanted to ensure that their audience understood the most basic form and meaning of the poem, and from there they could expand on their perspective of the verse as a metaphor. Imagist’s poems usually consist of one line that states a clear picture and feeling with no rhyme and slight rhythm. Although the Imagist movement only lasted around five years, it heavily influenced the free verse poets who followed with their own movement.
2. **In a Station of the Metro**

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;

Petals on a wet, black bough.

--Ezra Pound

1. The Imagist movement brought great change into the poetry world in the early twentieth century. Imagism was founded on short, single verse poems that were able to depict a whole scene while also serving as a metaphor towards the same scene or another object. This movement was instigated through the works of Ezra Pound when he read over Hilda Doolittle’s poem and wrote “H.D. Imagiste” on the bottom of the paper after marking several lines. The Imagist movement developed as a rebellion towards the lengthy and unclear poems of the Romantic and Georgian ages because the Imagists emphasized clarity, not confusing allusions. The imagists were able to create exact visual images that were constituted on their own, a whole poetic statement (Explanation of:). In the height of the Imagist movement, there were about twelve poets who would write these short remarkable lines. These poets also established the “Imagist Manifesto” which is the six fundamental guidelines for the goals of the Imagists. In a nutshell, they state that they are to consists of common speech, free verse, choice of subject, present an image, hard and clear, and finally, concentration. These are the six goals encompassed in the “Imagist Manifesto”.

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<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CLTF0000000297CE&v=2.1&u=fl_breva&it=r&p=LITF&sw=w>

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